

# Legislator University

SSC 302 Dealing with Disasters:  
Emergency Management





# Chapter 252, F.S. – Emergency Management

- Chapter 252, F.S., authorizes the creation of a state emergency management agency, known as the "Division of Emergency Management."
- The Division is charged with creating and implementing programs that avoid or reduce the impacts of natural and man-made disasters.



# Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM)

## **The Division's Mission Statement**

Working together to ensure that Florida is prepared to respond to emergencies, recover from them, and mitigate against their impacts.



# Emergency Management Philosophy - Local Ownership

**All disasters start and end at the local level**

State and federal officials provide support and resources when local agencies are overwhelmed.



# Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP)

- Sets the “overall framework” of state emergency management
- Provides guidance on the roles and responsibilities of federal, state and local officials
- Adopts a functional approach, combining types of assistance under each Emergency Support Function
- Designed to be flexible, adaptable, and scalable



# FDEM Operational Regions





# Natural and Technological Hazards

## Natural Hazards

- Hurricanes
- Tornadoes
- Floods
- Drought
- Wildfires
- Severe Thunderstorms
- Severe Heat and Cold
- Epidemics/Pandemics

## Technological Hazards

- Terrorism
- Mass Migration
- Radiological
- Hazardous Materials
- Special Events
- Transportation Accidents



# State Emergency Response Team (SERT)

- Comprised of response partners from other state agencies, voluntary agencies, and private organizations
- Grouped by Emergency Support Function
- 18 Emergency Support Functions (ESFs)
- Emergency Coordinating Officers (ECO)





# SERT Activation Levels

## **Level 3: Monitoring**

- Normal, day-to-day situational awareness

## **Level 2: Activation of SERT**

- Individual ESFs notified and staffed according to needs

## **Level 1: Full-Scale Activation**

- All ESFs present with 24-hour operation, as needed



# ESFs

ESF 1: Transportation (DOT)

ESF 2: Communications (DMS)

ESF 3: Public Works (DOT)

ESF 4: Firefighting (State Fire Marshal, DFS)

ESF 5: Information and Planning (DEM)

ESF 6: Mass Care (DBPR, DCF)

ESF 7: Resource Support (DMS)

ESF 8: Health and Medical (DOH)

ESF 9: Urban Search and Rescue (State Fire Marshal, DFS)



# Emergency Support Functions

ESF 10: Hazardous Materials (DEP)

ESF 11: Food and Water (DACCS)

ESF 12: Energy (PSC, DEM)

ESF 13: Military Support (DMA)

ESF 14: External Affairs - Public Information (EOG)

ESF 15: Volunteers and Donations (Volunteer FL)

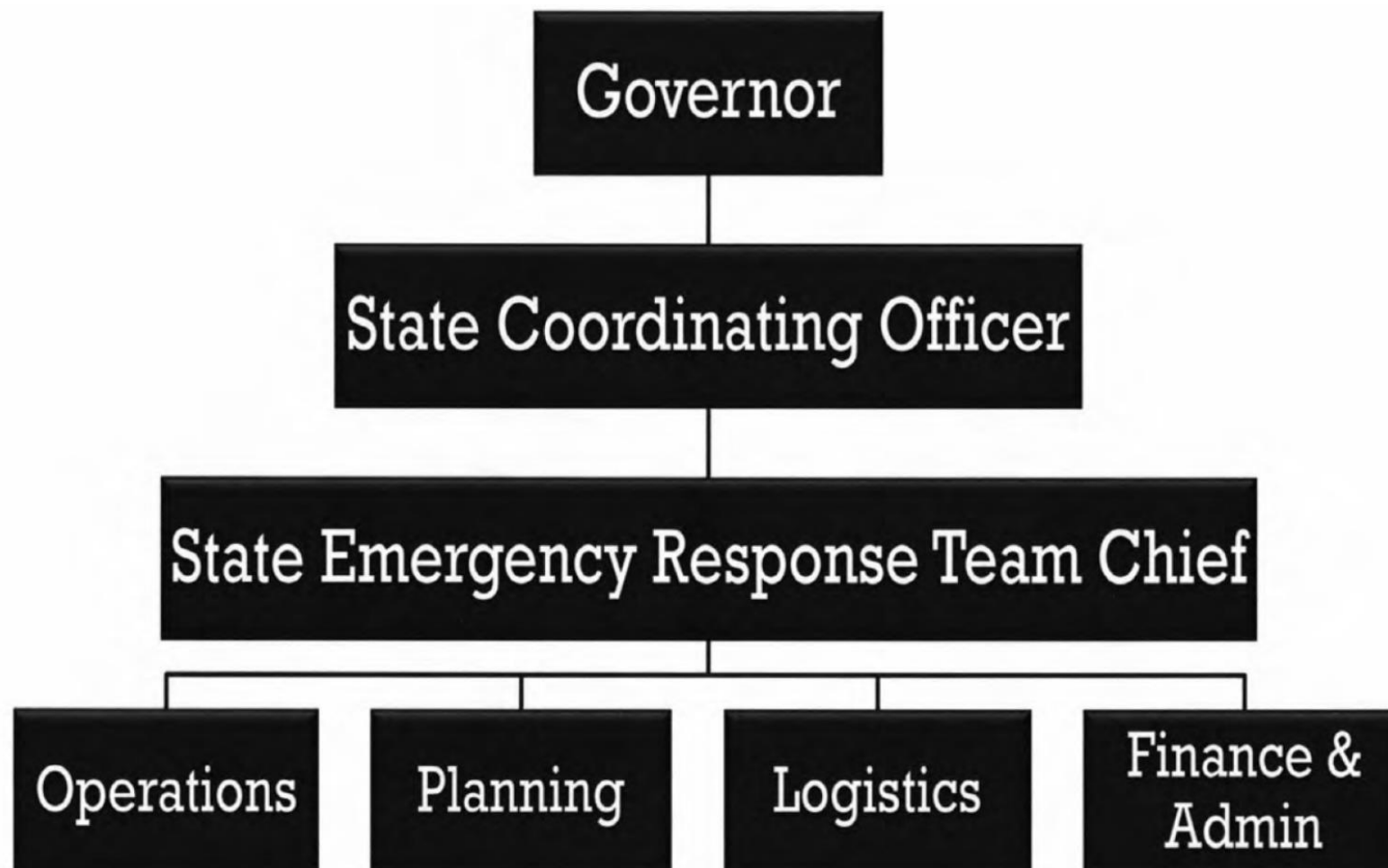
ESF 16: Law Enforcement and Security (FDLE)

ESF 17: Animal and Agricultural Issues (DACCS)

ESF 18: Business, Industry, and Economic Stabilization (DEO)



# State Emergency Operations Center Command Structure



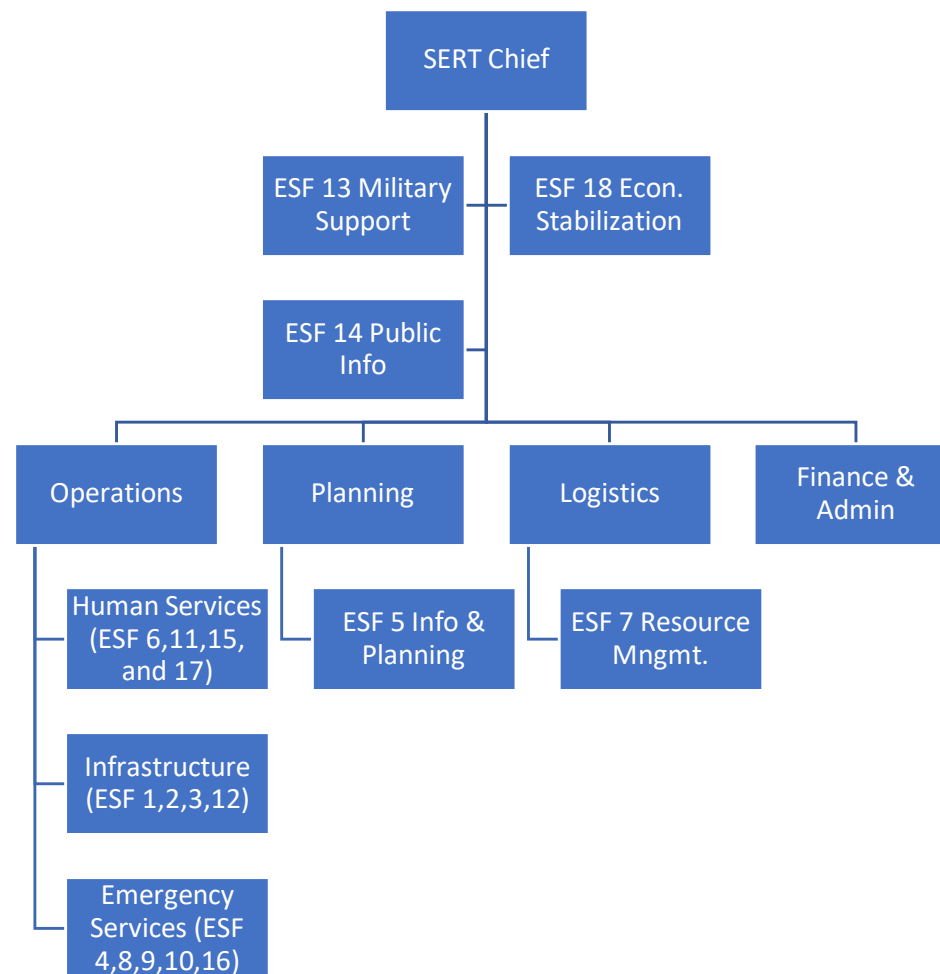


# SERT Organization

- Follows Incident Command System and Unity of Command principles
- Organized into sections and branches
- Manages state assistance to local governments
- Governor is the ultimate authority in all disasters
  - May delegate to a State Coordinating Officer (usually director of FDEM)
  - SERT Chief oversees implementation in the EOC

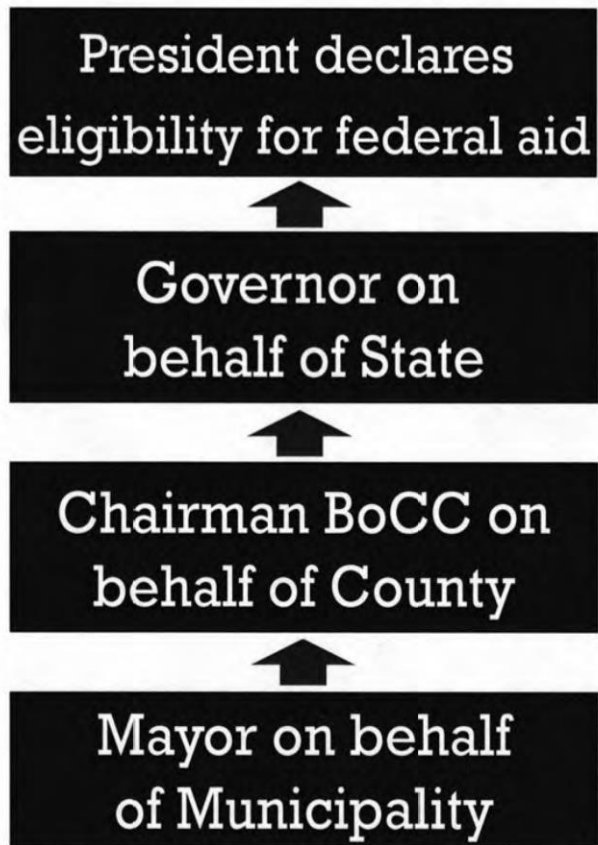


# SERT Organization with Integrated ESFs





# Requesting Assistance



- Under the Stafford Act and Chapter 252, F.S., only elected leadership has authority to declare emergencies
- Only the Governor may request assistance from the President





# Priorities in the First 72 Hours of Emergency







# Operational Rules

1. Meet the needs of the survivors
2. Take care of the responders
3. See 1., above



# FDEM Standing Orders in Emergency Response

1. Establish communication with impacted areas
2. Search and rescue and security
3. Meet basic human needs

Medical care

Water

Food

Shelter

Emergency Fuel

Ice is a distant sixth (focus on shelter and medical uses)

4. Restore critical infrastructure
5. Open schools and local businesses
6. Begin recovery



# Transition from Response to Recovery

- When a state of emergency is declared, SERT initiates emergency response operations
- As response operations are underway, SERT simultaneously begins planning recovery operations
  - Short-term recovery
  - Long-term reconstruction



# Recovery Programs – Individual Assistance

- When a disaster is declared, funds are available through a series of programs to assist in rebuilding communities
- Funds go to state, territorial, tribal, and local government; certain types of private not-for-profit organizations; or to persons and households
- Programs include:
  - Mass Care and Emergency Assistance
  - Individuals and Households Program
  - Disaster Case Management
  - Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program
  - Disaster Legal Services
  - Disaster Unemployment Assistance
  - Voluntary Agency Coordination



# Recovery Programs – Public Assistance

- Public Assistance Grant Program, administered by FEMA, is the largest grant program providing funds to assist communities responding to and recovering from major disaster or emergency
- Eligible applicants include cities, counties, state agencies, and private not-for-profits that are legally responsible for facilities damaged during the disaster or emergency
- Federal share for reimbursement under most federal disaster or emergency declarations is no less than 75%; the 25% non-federal share is provided through a combination of state and local resources, per statute



# Mitigation Measures

- Mitigation generally involves enhancing the built environment to significantly reduce risks and vulnerability to hazards; can also include removing the built environment from disaster prone areas and maintaining natural mitigating features (wetlands, floodplains)
- Hazard mitigation is most effective when based on an inclusive, comprehensive, long-term plan developed pre-disaster
- Under federal law, Florida must have a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan to be eligible for federal hazard mitigation funding
- Florida's Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan provides guidance in merging all planning efforts of state agencies, local governments, the private sector, and not-for-profit organizations into one viable, comprehensive, and statewide mitigation program



# FDEM Bureau of Mitigation

- Administers the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program- federal funds post-disaster for mitigation projects in communities participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) with a local mitigation strategy
- FEMA has delegated grant management responsibilities to FDEM- includes reviewing grant applications, completing cost-benefit analyses, approving scope-of-work modifications, and moving funds between applicable projects



# FDEM Bureau of Mitigation – Other Mitigation Programs

- Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program – competitive federal grant to aid state, local, and tribal governments plan and implement cost-effective hazard mitigation activities (acquisition, elevation, relocation, reconstruction, retrofits)
- Flood Mitigation Assistance – funds for planning and projects that reduce or eliminate long-term risk of flood damage to structures insured under NFIP
- Hurricane Loss Mitigation Program – state administered grant funded by the Hurricane Catastrophe Trust Fund for projects included in annual Shelter Retrofit Report
- Other programs include the State Floodplain Management Office and Repetitive Loss Strategy



# Questions?



Michael Poché, Esq.  
Staff Director – Pandemics and Public  
Emergencies Committee  
203 House Office Building  
850-717-4820  
[Michael.Poche@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Michael.Poche@myfloridahouse.gov)